

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,  
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut  
Chairman

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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

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**Rep. Shays to Examine Research on Sarin Exposure Effects  
and other Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses:  
British Parliamentarian Lord Alfred Morris of Manchester  
To Participate in the Hearing**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing June 1 to assess the status of research on Gulf War illnesses and discuss General Accounting Office (GAO) findings regarding Persian Gulf War veterans' exposures to chemical warfare agents.

The hearing will convene Tuesday, June 1, 2004, 1:00 pm in room 2154 of the Rayburn Building in Washington, D.C.

"Low-level exposures to sarin may play a role in the illnesses and syndromes suffered by more than 125,000 American veterans of the first Gulf War," Shays said. "For those veterans, and for those fighting in toxic environments today, only an aggressive research agenda will produce the answers needed to protect or cure yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's warriors."

Veterans from the United Kingdom have also suffered the range of illnesses and symptoms often called "Gulf War Syndrome." Lord Alfred Morris of Manchester, a former UK Minister of War Pensions, has been an active advocate for Gulf War veterans. As he did in January 2002, Lord

Morris will join the Subcommittee in reviewing the status of research into Gulf War exposures and treatments.

Shays said, “Studies indicate our Coalition partners from the UK and elsewhere were also operating in the path of toxic plumes. We welcome Lord Morris’ expertise as the Subcommittee examines the international research effort to diagnose and treat the health effects of battlefield exposures.”

In recent years VA and DOD funding for Gulf War Illnesses research has decreased, despite the appointment of a new VA Research Advisory Committee. The GAO is expected to testify that the VA has not reassessed the extent to which the current portfolio has addressed key research questions. The last time VA did an assessment was in 2000, when only half of pending research studies were complete.

Committee on Government Reform  
Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations  
“Examining the Status of Gulf War Research and Investigations on Gulf War Illnesses”  
(June 1, 2004)

**Witness List**

**PANEL ONE**

**Mr. Jim Bunker**

Chairman, Veteran Information Network  
Gulf War Veteran  
Topeka, Kansas

**Dr. Derek Hall**

Gulf War Veteran  
United Kingdom

**Dr. Janet Heinrich**

Director, Health Care-Public Health Issues  
General Accounting Office

**Dr. Keith Rhodes**

Chief General Accounting Office  
Technologist  
General Accounting Office

**Mr. Jim Binns**

Chairman  
Research Advisory Committee on Gulf  
War Veterans Illnesses

**Mr. Steve Robinson**

Executive Director  
National Gulf War Resource Center, Inc.

**PANEL TWO**

**Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin**

Acting Under Secretary for Health and  
Acting Chief Research and Development  
Officer  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Accompanied by:

Dr. Mindy L. Aisen  
Deputy Chief Research and Development  
Officer  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Craig Hyams

Chief Consultant, Occupational and  
Environmental Health  
Department of Veterans Affairs

**Major General Lester Martinez-Lopez**

Commanding General of U.S. Army  
Medical Research and Materiel Command  
Fort Detrick, Maryland

**Dr. Robert Haley**

Professor of Internal Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center

**Dr. Rogene Henderson**

Senior Scientist  
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute

**Dr. Paul Greengard**

Vincent Astor Professor and Head of  
Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular  
Neuroscience  
The Rockefeller University  
Nobel Laureate 2000